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FIRE MANAGEMENT & RESPONSE IN THE AMAZON REGION

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and USAID join forces to build capacity and strengthen partnerships for fire management among Amazonian countries. Better fire management contributes to a healthy and resilient Amazon that supports human well-being, safeguards our global climate, and improves local livelihoods.

The Regional Fire Program is active in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Efforts focus on improving fire prevention and response with strategic planning, coordination, and training across the region, and on improving interagency and international collaboration. The program builds upon 20 years of work by the USFS and USAID to address crucial natural resource management issues in South America.

HOW DOES THE ACTIVITY WORK?

The Regional Fire program leverages the expertise of the USFS to provide technical assistance in planning, preventing and fighting fires to protect people and forest resources.

The program supports government institutions and local partners to collaboratively develop national fire management policies. The USFS supports these institutions to develop standard firefighting courses and qualifications systems to promote the sharing of human resources across borders. In addition, our work with partner institutions is modernizing wildland fire forecasting systems to provide decision-makers with timely information to make better on-the-ground operational decisions and plan for significant fire

potential. Finally, communications and outreach programs raise fire prevention awareness to address the root causes.

WHAT RESULTS ARE EXPECTED?

- Courses implemented in a Standardized Fire Qualifications and Curriculum System in Peru and Colombia.
- Communication tools related to wildfire prevention developed. Radio campaigns in Peru raise awareness of the negative effects of wildfires on health, economy, and the environment.
- Implemented train the trainer program to instructors to deliver basic wildfire management concepts to firefighters.
- Increased inter-institutional cooperation through technical seminars about the operational management aspects of wildfires.
- A prototype of a wildland fire forecast system was developed in Peru. The analysis attained by this platform provides a near-real-time data on weather, fuels, and areas at risk for fire managers working on-site.
- Improved the abilities to suppress fires and coordinate fire management efforts.
- Regional agreements strengthened for sharing resources and mutual aid.
- Institutions have standardized and synchronized their qualification and training programs.
- Public and private sector actors informed of fire management and mitigation opportunities and public-private sector partnerships.

PROJECT INFORMATION

IMPLEMENTER: U.S. Forest Service International Programs

COMPONENT DURATION: August 2020 – August 2025

USAID FUNDING: \$6 million

LEVERAGE: Colombia Forest and Wetlands Support, LAC/RSD Sustainable Landscapes program in Ecuador and Paraguay, Peru FOREST, BHA Brazil Strengthening Fire Investigation.

LOCATION: Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru

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